

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 007361

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CO, CS

SUBJECT: LOPEZ/KUBISCH MEETING, JANUARY 10, 1974

1. LIBERAL PARTY CANDIDATE LOPEZ MICHELSEN, ACCOMPANIED BY AMBASSADOR BOTERO, CALLED ON ASSISTANT SECRETARY KUBISCH JANUARY 10. VISIT ESSENTIALLY A GET ACQUAINTED/ COURTESY CALL AND EXCHANGE OF VIEWS.

HIGHLIGHTS:

A. HEMISPHERIC RELATIONS: LOPEZ PROFESSED HAVING BEEN TOO BUSY CAMPAIGNING TO HAVE FORMULATED AN OPINION ON RECENT EFFORTS RE IMPROVING HEMISPHERIC RELATIONS (I.E., BOGOTA MEETING, MEXICO CITY MEETING). LOPEZ AND KUBISCH AGREED THAT SPIRIT WITH WHICH JOINT ENDEAVORS CARRIED OUT IN NEAR FUTURE WILL DETERMINE THEIR EVENTUAL SUCCESS. ASSISTANT SECRETARY KUBISCH ALSO POINED OUT THAT SECRETARY KISSINGER IS VERY INTERESTED IN LATIN AMERICA AREA, WILL PERHAPS MAKE MORE THAN ONE TRIP TO THE AREA THIS YEAR,
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NOT FOR PURPOSE OF GOOD

WILL OR FACT FINDING BUT RATHER TO WORK TOWARD CONCRETE SOLUTIONS TO EXISTING PROBLEMS.

B. BILATERAL RELATIONS: LOPEZ AND KUBISCH CONCURRED RE GOOD STATE OF U.S.-COLOMBIAN RELATIONS. LOPEZ ADDED THAT COLOMBIA IS AN INTERNATIONAL LAW-ABIDING NATION WITH A UNIQUE INDEPENDENT JUDICIARY THAT DOES NOT DISCRIMINATE ON BASIS OF NATIONALITY IN RESOLUTION OF DISPUTES.

C. AMBASSADOR VAKY: LOPEZ MICHELSEN EXPRESSED HIS PERSONAL PLEASURE ON AMBASSADOR VAKY'S APPOINTMENT AND WARMLY RECALLED HIS CONTACT WITH AMBASSADOR VAKY WHEN AMBASSADOR ON NSC STAFF. KUBISCH SAID THAT VAKY WAS ONE OF THE MOST OUTSTANDING OFFICERS IN THE FOREIGN SERVICE AND THAT VAKY HAD BEEN CAREFULLY CHOSEN FOR THIS IMPORTANT ASSIGNMENT, ADDING THAT VAKY HAD THE FULLEST CONFIDENCE AND SUPPORT OF WASHINGTON.

D. QUITA SUENO: LOPEZ ASKED ABOUT STATUS OF QUITA SUENO TREATY, NOTING THAT HE BECAME INVOLVED WITH QUITA SUENO QUESTION DURING HIS FOREIGN MINISTRY. ASSISTANT SECRETARY KUBISCH REPLIED THAT QUITA SUENO TREATY STILL BEFORE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE, THAT DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN QUERIED BY COMMITTEE RE CERTAIN ASPECTS, AND THAT DEPARTMENT CONTINUES TO RECOMMEND EARLY RATIFICATION.

COMMENT: AFTER FLORIDA REST AND EXTENSIVE NEW YORK PROGRAM, WHICH, AS IN WASHINGT ON, INCLUDED POLITICAL MEETINGS WITH RESIDENT COLOMBIANS, LOPEZ GAVE EVERY APPEARANCE OF BEING IN FINE FETTL, READY AND EAGER TO RETURN TO CONTINUE CAMPAIGN IN COLOMBIA. RUSH

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